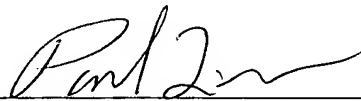


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 22, 2004